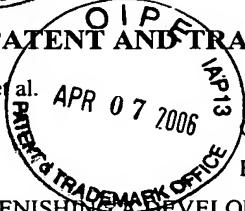




JPA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Takaaki YANAGISAWA, et al. APR 07 2006
 SERIAL NO: 10/830,223 GAU: 2852
 FILED: April 23, 2004 EXAMINER: Hoan Tran
 FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REPLENISHING A DEVELOPING DEVICE WITH TONER WHILE
 SUPPRESSING TONER REMAINING



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

The applicant(s) wish to make of record the following:

Japanese Office Action dated 7/20/04 for Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-357614 with English Translation
 Japanese Office Action dated 3/15/05 for Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-357614 with English Translation
 Japanese Office Action dated 11/29/05 for Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-357614 with English Translation
 Japanese Office Action dated 12/6/05 for Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-374330 with English Translation

The Office Actions are attached, and all references cited therein are either of record in this application or are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and included herewith.

A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s), published application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. In accordance with the waiver of 37 CFR 1.98 dated September 21, 2004, copies of the cited pending applications are not provided. Cited published and/or issued patents, if any, are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.

The Assignee of this application is prosecuting three U.S. patent application families which relate to a container for storing toner. This application is a member of one of these three patent families. Information about these three patent families is set forth in the attached print-outs obtained in March of 2006.

The examiner is reminded of the availability of examiner electronic access to the members of these patent families including U.S. applications and patents, and foreign patent documents, for example, through Trilateral Document Access (TDA), explained in the 20 September OG Notice, entitled "Reciprocal Access to and Usage of Documents in Application Files of Trilateral Offices," available at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/2005/week38/patapps.htm>.

A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

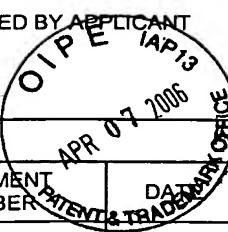
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Registration No. 34,648

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| Form PTO 1449 (Modified) | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 251961US-3 DIV | | SERIAL NO. 10/830,101 | |
|--|----|---|---------|---|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT | |  | | APPLICANT Takaaki YANAGISAWA, et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE RCE Filed July 11, 2005 | | GROUP 2852 | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB CLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | AA | | | | | | |
| | AB | | | | | | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | TRANSLATION | | |
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| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.) | | | | | | | |
| | AW | | | | | | |
| | AX | | | | | | |
| | AY | | | | | | |
| | AZ | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached | |
| Examiner | | | | | Date Considered | | |
| *Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | | |